

Head Teacher's Report

I would like to start by thanking all parents and families for their help and support over the past 8 weeks of online learning. The staff and I have been working very hard on adapting the way in which we work to the online platforms of Seesaw and Google classroom. We also appreciate the hard work that is being carried out by parents and families at this challenging time.

We have appreciated all the feedback that we have received so far with regard to our online offer. Taking on board your feedback, we have recently started providing a weekly summary document, which we hope has proved useful in signposting the activities planned over the course of the week.

We continue to keep in contact with parents by email, Seesaw, telephone. We have also recently distributed a community newsletter over the past few weeks, with the support of the families of Tippetty school.

We encourage all parents to continue to keep in contact with the school if we can help in any way with online learning or otherwise.

Throughout the school closure period, the children continue to be supported by the visiting specialist team, who are supporting with online resources, and the school continues to work closely with the QIO, Ellon Cluster Head teachers, the ASL teacher, Intervention and Prevention teacher and Educational Psychologist to continue to support the learners in Tippetty school and to make plans for our eventual return to school.

We are delighted that we were recently able to secure Home Access for Accelerated reading for the duration of the school closure at no extra cost to the school.

With regard to classes for next year, we are delighted that there are 3 new p1s who have enrolled in Tippetty school as of August 2020. This means that the classes for next year will be a p1-4 class of 16 pupils and a p5-7 class of 17 pupils.

Our new p1 transition programme has already started with the delivery of learning packs to the new p1 pupils. We have held two introductory Skype meetings for the parents and pupils, and we are using Seesaw to begin to share the new p1s' work online. In the coming weeks we plan to hold literacy and numeracy workshops for the new p1s remotely, and we will remain flexible in our approach to the remainder of the induction programme based on emerging guidance from the authority.

In terms of p7 transition, we have two learners leaving Tippetty school in July 2020, Niamh and Neo. Although we are disappointed that their time at Tippetty has ended in this manner, we are pleased to report that the p7 transition process is proceeding well remotely. A successful p7 transition quiz for small schools was held in the past 2 weeks, arranged by Slains Parent Council and another quiz is planned for his week. Links between Ellon Academy and the cluster schools are being maintained through Teams and an Ellon Academy Transition Facebook page. We are progressing with our plans to hold an online Leavers Assembly for Neo and Niamh, and details of this have already been shared with parents.

With regard to the class teacher appointment in p5-7, Mrs Baillie will continue to teach p5-7 from Monday to Wednesday in term 1 and Mrs Dew is planned to teach in p5-7 on Thursday/Fridays in term 1. It is planned that a permanent appointment for the p5-7 class teacher vacancy will be made from term 2 onwards.

The vacancy for the permanent HT post is currently being advertised on My Job Scotland with a closing date of 29/5/20.

We will continue to communicate any updates as they are received.

We thank you for your continued support.